

6th Oakland prostitute slain, but no link seen yet by police

By Harry Harris

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The nude body of a 23-year-old woman was found hanging in an East Oakland park yesterday, the sixth Oakland prostitute slain in little more than two months.

Police will not say the cases are linked, and a detective said it was "premature" to discuss the possibility of a serial killer.

Sharon Falise Frazier, whose birthday was Tuesday, was found hanging from a tree at Burckhalter Park, a rope looped around her neck.

Police Capt. Jim Hahn said Frazier died of strangulation, the first such death in any of the cases. Three of the other victims were shot and two beaten.

See SLAIN, Back Page

Continued from Page A-1

Hahn cautioned saying that a serial killer — someone who commits a series of similar murders — "is out there ... It's probably a little premature at this point."

"There is no evidence that would point to a single suspect," he said.

Hahn said there "are some similarities" between this slaying and the other five. "However, there are some gross dissimilarities."

All that the victims have in common is that they are all women in their 20s with drug and prostitution records.

Hahn said it was the "gross dissimilarities," on which he would not elaborate, that made police cautious about linking the cases.

One dissimilarity he did point out was the difference in the causes of death.

When asked if there was a "sick trick" who may be killing the women in anger, Hahn said a large number of prostitutes have been interviewed by homicide investigators, and "what we have been able to determine is that a large portion of the people they deal with are sick."

Yesterday's victim was found about 7 a.m. inside Burckhalter Park, which is on Edwards Avenue adjacent to Interstate 580. The tree the body was hanging from is in the right field portion of the baseball diamond, be-

tween a bathroom and a small playground.

Hahn said the body was brought to the park sometime after 10 p.m. when a softball game ended.

Burckhalter Park has recently become a meeting place for upper-level narcotics dealers to discuss business with each other, police said. It has a dark parking lot that has been used in the past by prostitutes and their customers.

The woman killed yesterday was known to work MacArthur Boulevard from 73rd Avenue east to the San Leandro border. That would make her the first among the recent victims to have worked that area, the rest having sold sex in downtown and West Oakland.

She was also a drug user who occasionally sold drugs along MacArthur, police said.

MacArthur Boulevard, where Frazier was known to work, was quiet last night, and few women working the street would talk. But one woman, obviously scared and in a hurry, said she had worked as a prostitute until a few weeks ago when she was beaten and sexually assaulted with a .357-magnum pistol.

"I'm spooked," the woman, who called herself Isis, said. "I won't work anymore."

Other prostitutes killed include:

■ Debra Lynn Adkins, 29, found bludgeoned early Sunday



Sharon Falise Frazier
Found hanged

morning at the entrance to Roberts Park off Skyline Boulevard in the Oakland hills.

■ Teresa Ann Greenlee, 26, found shot in the head under a freeway overpass in the 3400 block of Louise Street in West Oakland.

■ Annie Green, 29, found found shot to death Sept. 20 at 36th and Peralta streets, also under a freeway overpass.

■ Kim McWilliams, 24, street name "Chocolate," a shooting victim whose semi-nude body was found about 7 a.m. Sept. 6 beside the steps at the rear entrance to Oakland's Rose Garden, at Vernon Street and Monte Vista Avenue.

■ Mary Sims, 29, a beating victim whose nude body was found on the doorstep of a home in the 3200 block of Kansas Street in East Oakland on July 31.